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PATENT
ATTY. REF. NO. P0854LIn the Claims

1-45 (canceled).

46. (previously presented): A video processing method comprising:

(a) receiving video content, said content comprising first and associated second data, said first data representing video picture elements to be rendered for display to a consumer, the second data not representing video picture elements to be rendered for display to the consumer;

(b) decoding information steganographically encoded in the first data; and

(c) making a determination concerning said video by reference to said decoded information and said second data.

47. (previously presented): The method of claim 46 in which said determination relates to whether a recording capability should be enabled or disabled.

48. (previously presented): The method of claim 46 in which (c) includes checking reliability of said second data by reference to said decoded information.

49. (previously presented): The method of claim 46 in which the received first data is steganographically encoded by a method that adapts encoding of the information to features of the video, to reduce visible distortion of the video.

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50. (previously presented): The method of claim 46 in which the received first data is steganographically encoded by a method that manifests said encoding of the information as an increase in luminance of certain video picture elements, and as a decrease in luminance of certain other video picture elements.

51. (previously presented): The method of claim 46 in which the second data comprises video management information.

52. (previously presented): The method of claim 46 in which the second data comprises metadata related to said visual information.

53. (previously presented): The method of claim 46 in which said first and second data are received in a data structure comprising header data and compressed video information.

54. (previously presented): The method of claim 53 in which said data structure comprises a file.

55. (previously presented): In a data structure stored in a tangible medium, the data structure including first and second data, the first data representing video to be rendered for display to a consumer, the second data comprising associated information that does not represent video to be rendered for display, an improvement wherein the first data conveys a steganographically encoded signal useful in assuring reliability of said second data.

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56. (previously presented): The data structure of claim 55 in which the first data represents video in compressed form.

57. (previously presented): The data structure of claim 55 in which the first data represents video in MPEG compressed form.

58. (previously presented): The data structure of claim 55 in which the first data comprises a stream of video.

59. (previously presented): The data structure of claim 55 in which the second data comprises administrative information concerning said video.

60. (previously presented): The data structure of claim 55 in which said steganographic encoding comprises subtle changes to the luminance of the video.

61. (previously presented): The data structure of claim 60 in which said subtle changes in luminance are not all uniform, but rather are adapted to the video so as to reduce visibility of said the encoded signal.

62-66. (canceled).

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67. (new): A video processing method comprising:

obtaining video content, said video content comprising first data and associated second data, said first data representing video picture elements to be rendered for display to a consumer, the second data not representing video picture elements to be rendered for display to the consumer; and

steganographically encoding information in the first data,

whereby a determination concerning said video content can be made by reference to either of said encoded information and said second data.

68. (new): The method of claim 67 in which said determination relates to whether a recording capability should be enabled or disabled.

69. (new): The method of claim 67 in which the determination includes checking reliability of the second data by reference to the information.

70. (new): The method of claim 67 in which the first data is steganographically encoded by a method that adapts encoding of the information to features of the video, to reduce visible distortion of the video.

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71. (new): The method of claim 67 in which the first data is steganographically encoded by a method that manifests the encoding of the information as an increase in luminance of certain video picture elements, and as a decrease in luminance of certain other video picture elements.

72. (new): The method of claim 67 in which the second data comprises metadata related to the first data.

73. (new): The method of claim 67 in which the first data and second data are received in a data structure comprising header data and compressed video information.

74. (new): The method of claim 73 in which said data structure comprises a file.

75. (new): A method comprising:
receiving video, wherein authentic video comprises in-band information and associated out-of-band information;

looking for out-of-band information associated with the received video;

looking for in-band information associated with the received video; and

based at least in part on a result of said looking for out-of-band information and said looking for in-band information, reaching a conclusion regarding the received video.

76. (new): The method of claim 75 in which the conclusion relates to whether a recording capability should be enabled or disabled.

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77. (new): The method of claim 75 in which the conclusion relates to a reliability of the out-of-band information.

78. (new): The method of claim 75 in which the in-band information is steganographically encoded by a method that adapts encoding of the in-band information to features of the video, to reduce visible distortion of the video.

79. (new): The method of claim 75 wherein the in-band information comprises steganographic encoding.

80. (new): The method of claim 75 in which the in-band information is steganographically encoded by a method that manifests encoding of the information as an increase in luminance of certain video picture elements, and as a decrease in luminance of certain other video picture elements.

81. (new): The method of claim 75 in which the out-of-band information comprises video management information.

82. (new): The method of claim 75 in which the out-of-band information comprises metadata related to the video.